



November 15, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET IN BURNS

The next Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) meeting is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, December 2-3, 2002, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. The meeting will be held at the Burns District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office at 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon.

On Monday, the meeting will focus primarily on issues and concerns in recreation and wilderness as well as limits of acceptable change and zoning in the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA). A brief presentation on area scenic byways from Harney County Commissioner Dan Nichols will follow at the end of the session. On Tuesday, the SMAC will concentrate their efforts on transportation classification and maintenance procedures. As in all SMAC meetings, recommendation and action item reviews and designated federal official and chairman updates will be included.

The public is welcome to attend all portions of the meeting, and may contribute during public comment sessions scheduled at 11:00 a.m. each day. Unless otherwise approved by the SMAC Chair, the public comment periods will last no longer than 30 minutes, and each speaker will address the SMAC for a maximum of 5 minutes. Information to be distributed to SMAC members should be sent to Rhonda Karges at the Burns District BLM Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, no later than 10 days prior to the start of the meeting

Pursuant to the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000, the SMAC was established to provide representative counsel and advice to the BLM regarding (1) new and unique approaches to management

of the land within the boundary of the CMPA, (2) cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs and maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the area, and (3) preparation and implementation of a management plan for the CMPA.

The SMAC members listed below represent the following categories of constituents:

Richard Benner - No Financial Interest
Stacy Davies - Grazing Permittee
Alice Elshoff - Environmental Representative-Local
Michael Golden - Dispersed Recreation
E. Ron Harding - Wild Horse Management
Tom Harris, Chair - Mechanized or Consumptive Recreation
Wanda Johnson - Burns Paiute Tribe
Jason Miner - Fish and Recreational Fishing
Jerry Sutherland, Vice Chair - Environmental Representative-State
Hoyt Wilson - Grazing Permittee
Cynthia Witzel - Recreation Permit Holder
Harland Yriarte - Private Landowner
Steve Purchase - State Government Liaison (nonvoting member)

The Designated Federal Official is Thomas Dyer, Burns District Manager.

For further information on the SMAC or the upcoming meeting, contact Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office at 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon, or call (541) 573-4400, weekdays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. You may also check the Steens Web site at <http://www.or.blm.gov/Steens> for more information regarding the SMAC.